



public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Issued by Chief Directorate: Communications

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MEDIA STATEMENT

Public warning of fraudulent email scams in the name of Minister, Patricia De Lille and Fraudulent Order Scams within the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure

My office has been alerted to an email scam purporting to be in my name as the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure regarding a funding from the programme between the BRICS New Development Bank and the European Development Fund.

This is a fraudulent email scam and I am hereby issuing a warning to the public to please ignore this email.

The email address which the fraudulent email is sent from is patricia-de-lille-mecrep@executivemail.co.za. This should serve as the first red flag to members of the public as this is not an official government email address. An example of this fraudulent email is attached at the end of this statement.

The public should also note that such communication regarding funding for programmes will never come directly from the Minister's office. Any business between government and companies is processed through the formal Supply Chain Management processes in line prescripts of the Public Finance Management Act.

Furthermore as Ministers and public representatives we are never involved in any procurement or administrative processes for funding proposals or disbursing of funding.

This email will be reported to the Hawks as this is a criminal offence. Criminals are opportunists and slick in their operations but often there are dead give-way signs such as the email address in this case.

Further warnings signs in this email is that it states that the funding will be offered through an off shore bank. Government does not do business via off-shore banking.

I therefore appeal to the public to be alert and not engage and respond to such emails as they are scams.

Very often unsuspecting and innocent citizens fall prey to the acts of these criminals and we must at all times be alert and report these activities and communication to the relevant authorities.

I also want to urge the public to come forward with any similar scams that they know of and contact my office. The contact details for my office is on the official Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's (DPWI) website: <http://www.publicworks.gov.za/>

In another matter, I would also like to alert the public to fraudulent order scams within the DPWI. These scams targeting unsuspecting service providers mostly unfolds in the following manners:-

1) Solicitation of bribes in exchange for award of a tender

The Department has recently been experiencing fraudulent order scams targeting unsuspecting service providers.

DPWI recently discovered that there is an emerging fraudulent order scam whereby fraudsters use the names and email addresses of DPWI employees to lobby bribes from the service providers who have bid for tenders.

The fraudsters create email addresses that resemble the Department's genuine emails to solicit bribes from service providers. They obtain the tender information from the National Treasury Database.

They would call a service provider in an attempt to solicit bribes and promise to influence the outcome of the award in their favour.

The fraudsters are targeting the Department's Supply Chain Management employees and Project Services unit without any success.

We have determined that this is a scam because of the telephone numbers and email addresses that the fraudsters use when contacting our service providers.

The department also suspects that some insiders may be involved in this scam through their participation in the briefing sessions for the tenders. An investigation is underway to determine if this is the case. If it is found that DPWI employees are involved, they will face the necessary disciplinary actions.

My message to all officials is that corruption does not pay. It is an endemic problem in our country that undermines our democracy and impacts negatively on public service delivery, job creation and public trust in government, as well as investor confidence in the country.

We further suspect that some of the fraudsters gained access to some of the tender briefing documents and managed to identify the service providers to contact.

This is a very serious offence and we will use the full might of the law to deal with this and bring those involved to book.

2) FRAUDULENT ORDER SCAMS

Fraudsters have been targeting service providers in the Johannesburg and Pretoria regions using the Department's letterhead and real names of officials working in the Department to invite service providers to deliver goods and services at government offices or some other locations. These goods disappear mysteriously in the hands of criminals, leaving victims with huge debt.

We are extremely concerned about the use of employees' names and contact details in this scam. This poses serious security and reputational threats and damage to officials whose names have been used by the fraudsters. The fraudsters also report officials as people who want to commit fraud and corruption.

Members of the public must remember that the DPWI will never send a request to an individual service provider or group of service providers without following proper supply chain management processes.

Under these circumstances, the public is warned to verify any correspondence they receive in the name of the DPWI that requests them to deliver large amounts of goods out of the blue with no tender advert being advertised.

To verify the authenticity of requests for services, the public can contact the following officials:

Mr Matomo Mabotja

Telephone: 012 406 1328

Email: matomo.mabotja@dpw.gov.za

Or

Mr Lesole Matsotso

Telephone: 012 406 1439

Email: Lesole.matsotso@dpw.gov.za

OR

Anti-Corruption Unit: 012 406 1328

On Sun, Oct 20, 2019, 7:55 AM Patricia de Lille <patricia-de-lille-mecrep@executivemail.co.za> wrote:



I hope my message finds you well, the program under my portfolio is a funding program between BRICS New Development Bank(NDB) and European Development Fund (EDF) partnering together to support business and company's owners for infrastructural development.

Currently, there is a funding from the United Nations under the BRICS but the only payout bank is the Barclays offshore banking. The United Nations are currently offering funds of over Three hundred and fifty thousand United States Dollars (250,000 USD) and above through Barclays Offshore Bank to business minded personnel and company owners.

I want you to send me proposal and write about your plans, be rest assured that you are going to get the assistance you need from me to be able to apply for the funding, but I have to be convince that you will be able to handle this funds if approved for you, I want to believe you are someone with great ambition and can utilize any opportunity giving to you, then am willing to stand for you in getting assistance you need in acquiring this funds from this organization.

I can give you one of the representative contact, But you have to follow the due process required for this to be possible I wish to know if are you someone I can trust and stand for? Because I don't Want my name to be tarnished.

Kind Regards

Patricia de Lille
Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure
At The Presidency of the Republic of South Africa.

ENDS

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